

**Kathryn H. Shelton**  
*Director*

Division of Libraries, Archives,  
& Museums  
PO Box 110571  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0571  
907.465.2910



**Bruce Kato**  
*Chief Curator*

Alaska State Museums  
395 Whittier St.  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718  
907.465.2901  
[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)

## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: **Lisa Golisek**

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)

## Anchorage artist has exhibit at State Museum

Autobiography has been an ongoing theme in Anchorage artist Garry Kaulitz's work, and he continues to mine that vein in a solo exhibition of 70 new prints opening Friday, February 1, at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau. The exhibition is titled *Sankofa: Years & Caretakers*, from an African word meaning "we must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward." An opening reception for the exhibit is being hosted by The Friends of the Alaska State Museum, with free admission from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday. The artist will be in attendance at the opening and will give an informal talk on his work beginning at 6:30.

As well as being a painter, Kaulitz is a professor of printmaking at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He typically explores themes of domestic, social and existential issues in his work, using a style which is pictorial and figurative and includes allegory, symbols and metaphors.

Kaulitz has created 70 new monoprints for the current show, divided into the categories of "Years" and "Caretakers." Commenting on the exhibit, he stated: "‘Years’ is a collection of 64 prints, one for each year of my life, 1942 through 2006. Each print is a snapshot of cultural, political and personal events that helped shape the person I am today. Perhaps in the viewing, you will recognize threads of your own past."

The "Caretakers" element of the exhibit is composed of six large monoprints on handmade paper. Each one-of-a-kind piece is a portrait echoing relationships, events and vignettes of the three women Kaulitz credits with raising him. In creating the monoprints, Kaulitz explained that he combined numerous printmaking techniques: lithography, intaglio, screen-printing, relief and letterpress, as well as adding drawing, stenciling and collage elements using digital printing on tissue. "Some of the prints have been through the press well over twenty times," he said.

Kaulitz was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, and received his Master of Fine Arts degree in 1965 from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. Later he was owner and master printer at Kaulitz Press, specializing in fine art printing, while also teaching at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. In 1993 he took a teaching position at the University of Alaska Anchorage as area head of printmaking, which he still holds.

Since the 1960s Kaulitz's work has been represented in over 250 international, national, and regional exhibitions. He has had over 45 one-person exhibitions. His art is in many public and private collections including the Art Academy of China, the Anchorage Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, Kentucky Arts Commission, University of Kansas, J B Speed Art Museum, and the University of Alaska Anchorage.

He is included in the book *Icebreakers: Alaska's Most Innovative Artists* by Julie Decker, published in 1999 as well as *Found and Assembled in Alaska*, also by Decker, published 2001. In 2003 he was awarded the University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Creative or Scholastic Research.

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.